UNDER THE ASCOTS

MAN...
YOU ARE SO *GRABBY* IN YOUR SLEEP!
I HAVE FEATHERS *EVERYWHERE*... DUDE

YOU GOOD, MATT?

HM? OH! YES, I'M JUST... THINKING ABOUT WHAT WE SHOULD DO NOW.

FIRST WE NEED TO GET SOME MORE FOOD. I'M GOING TO SET TRAPS IN THE WOODS TO START WITH.

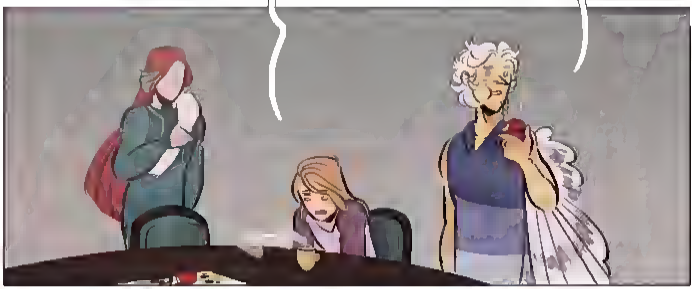
I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CREATE A PLAN TO GAIN ENTRY INTO BASILEIA SECRETLY FOR ITEMS WE MAY NEED. IT WILL AVOID PUTTING ARGUS IN DANGER OF BEING FOLLOWED.

YES. AT LEAST FOR NOW. I DON'T THINK WE CAN REALLY TRUST ANYONE.

AND THE LAST THING I WANT IS FOR MY UNCLE TO BE MORE AT RISK...

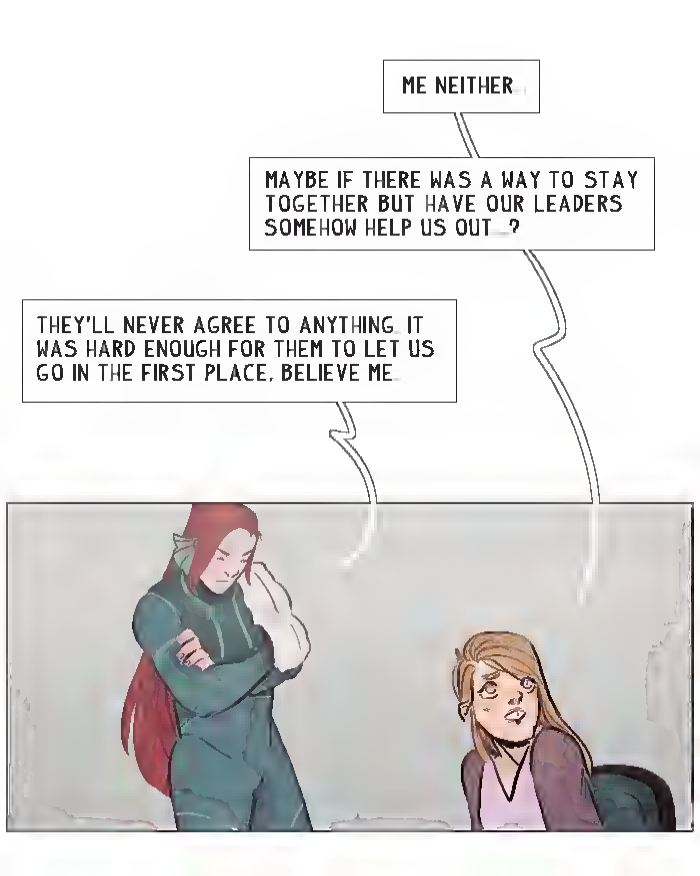
HEY...HAVE YOU GUYS MAYBE THOUGHT ABOUT, Y'KNOW, JUST GOING BACK HOME?

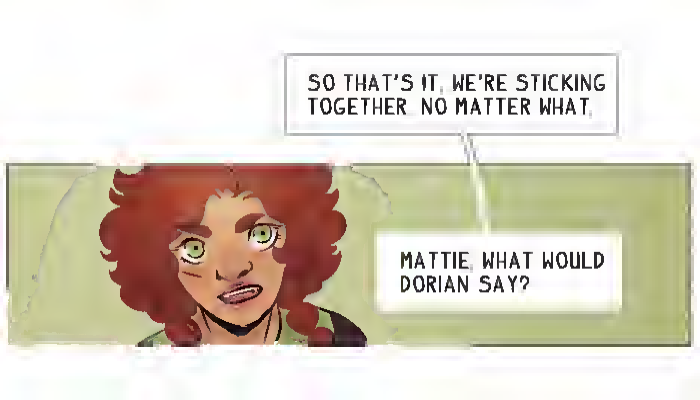
I...I GUESS THAT MIGHT BE...SAFER FOR US...



I'M ALL FOR GOING BACK TO THE VALLEY, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE HIDING FROM A BUNCH OF STUPID, COWARDLY ASSASSINS.

YEAH... LIKE... MY MOTHER WOULD LOVE IT IF I WERE SAFE AT HOME... BUT I DON'T REALLY WANNA... LEAVE YOU GUYS...


ME NEITHER
MAYBE IF THERE WAS A WAY TO STAY TOGETHER BUT HAVE OUR LEADERS SOMEHOW HELP US OUT...?
THEY'LL NEVER AGREE TO ANYTHING. IT WAS HARD ENOUGH FOR THEM TO LET US GO IN THE FIRST PLACE, BELIEVE ME.

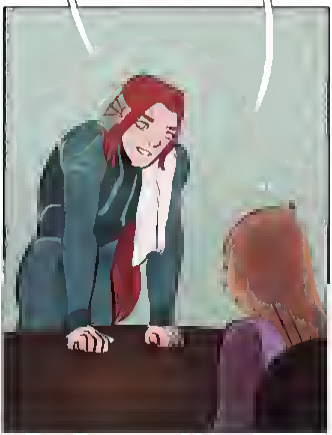

SO THAT'S IT. WE'RE STICKING TOGETHER. NO MATTER WHAT.
MATTIE. WHAT WOULD DORIAN SAY?

I--I--UM. I THINK HE WOULD WANT TO STAY HERE--?

YOU HEARD HOW HE'S TALKED ABOUT GOLGOTHA, YOU THINK HE'S GONNA WANNA GO BACK? NAWWW, HE'LL BE DOWN FOR STAYING HERE WITH US

IT'S SETTLED THEN. MATTIE. WHEN YOU GET A CHANCE TO TALK TO ARGUS, YOU SHOULD LET HIM KNOW HOW WE FEEL.

OH! I WILL!

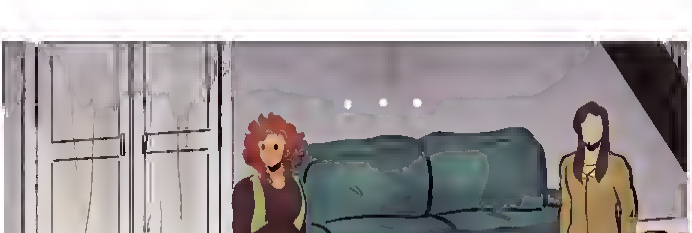


I'LL TRY TO GET A HOLD OF HIM RIGHT NOW!

NOW LET'S GET YA IN THAT WATER BEFORE YOU DRY UP.

YOU JUST WANT TO SEE ME FREEZE MY BUTT OFF.

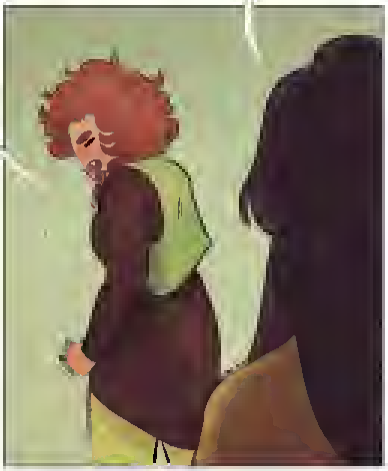
YEP



I'M GONNA SET THOSE TRAPS NOW

WILL YOU BE REQUIRING ASSISTANCE?

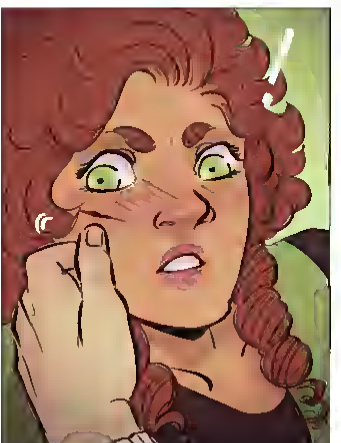
I'VE SET TRAPS HUNDREDS OF TIMES. I'LL BE JUST FINE



WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME LIKE THAT??

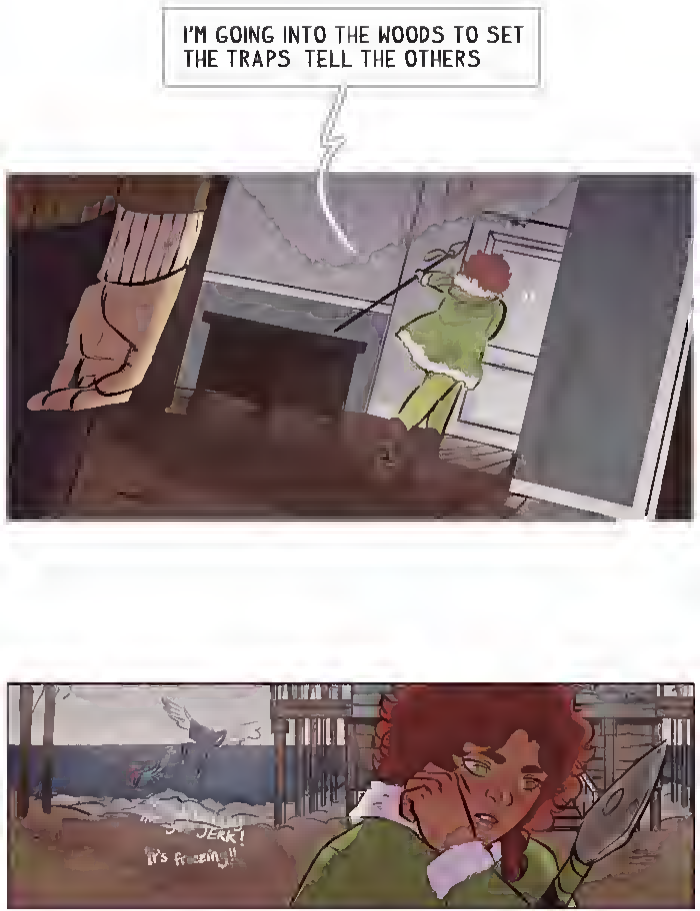
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING
ALLOW ME TO JUST--

I HAVE AN OINTMENT FROM TEMPLOS... TO HELP THIS HEAL QUICKLY WITHOUT LEAVING A SCAR.



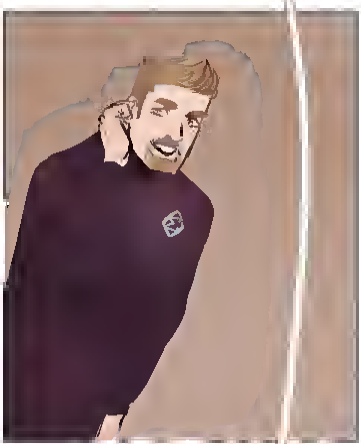
IF YOU WISH I COULD--

OKAY, FINE, WHATEVER!


I'M GOING INTO THE WOODS TO SET THE TRAPS TELL THE OTHERS
JERK!
It's freezin'!!

THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE. WIELDERS STAYING TOGETHER AND SORRY FOR NOT ANSWERING YOU EARLIER, I'VE BEEN SURROUNDED BY SYNEDRION--
THAT'S OKAY! YOU MUST BE FEELING SO PARANOID THERE...ALTHOUGH...
I WAS THINKING MAYBE YOU COULD JUST TELL COUNCILWOMAN ALLURA THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED?

I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH LYING TO HER ABOUT IT. SHE DESERVES TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN BASILEIA...



BUT I DON'T WANT TO RISK TELLING ANYONE WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW. IF THE SYNEDRION'S COMPROMISED, I COULD BE OVERHEARD.

I HAVE TO GO, MATTIE, I'M MEETING WITH THE COUNCILWOMAN IN A FEW MINUTES.

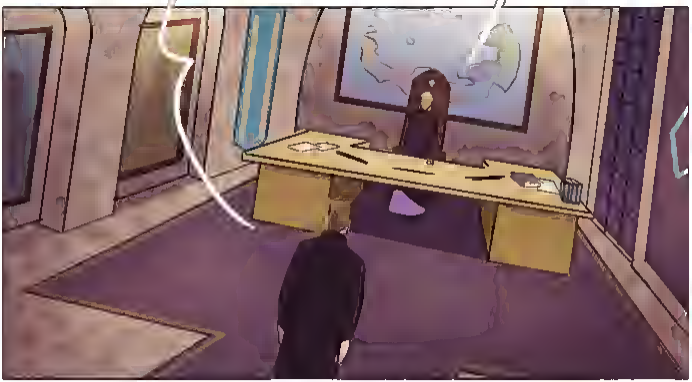
OKAY. GOOD LUCK! I LOVE YOU

LOVE YOU TOO

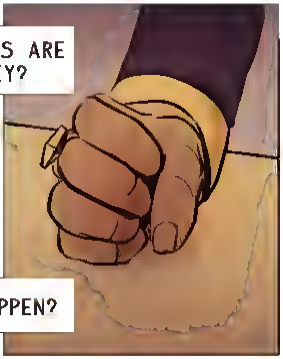
GOOD EVENING, ARGUS. I MISSED YOUR LAST REPORT ON THE WIELDERS. I HOPE YOU'RE HERE TO UPDATE ME

YES, COUNCILWOMAN. THIS IS SOMETHING I HAD TO TELL YOU PERSONALLY.

THE WIELDERS HAVE...GONE INTO HIDING.

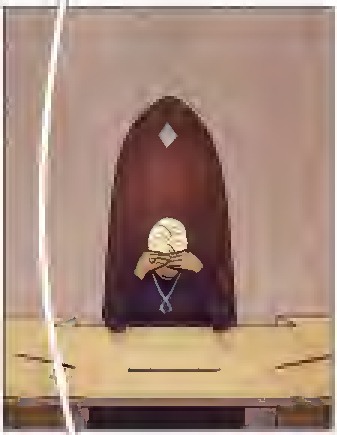


THE WIELDER HOUSE WAS BREACHED AND THEY WERE VERY NEARLY KILLED, COUNCILWOMAN. THEY WERE FORCED TO ESCAPE


ARGUS... I DON'T BELIEVE THIS... ARE THEY SAFE? WHERE ARE THEY?
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

THEY... CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO MOVE TO A DIFFERENT LOCATION. I HAVE RECEIVED CONTACT FROM MY NIECE ONLY...
THEY'RE ALL WELL BUT... THEY REFUSE TO DISCLOSE THEIR CURRENT WHEREABOUTS...

YOU WARNED ME...YOU ASKED ME TO MOVE THEM AND I DIDN'T LISTEN TO YOU. THEY COULD HAVE DIED...AND YOUR NIECE...



YOU HAVE MY MOST PROFOUND APOLOGIES ARGUS.

COUNCILWOMAN, WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW IS RESPECT THE WIELDERS' DECISIONS TO LIE LOW

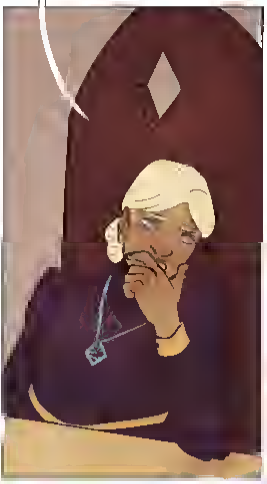
AND TRY TO CATCH THE CULPRITS

YES. WE SHOULD GATHER ANY EVIDENCE FROM THE HOUSE AND THEN SEAL IT.

I WILL GIVE YOU THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HELP THE WIELDERS IN ANY WAY YOU CAN.

BUT ARGUS...WIELDERS CAN'T JUST DISAPPEAR. THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO BE REASSURED. THEIR FAMILIES NEED TO SEE THEM. WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE GOING TO TELL THE LEADERS?

THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO PROTECT THEM?



MATTIE TOLD ME THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED--

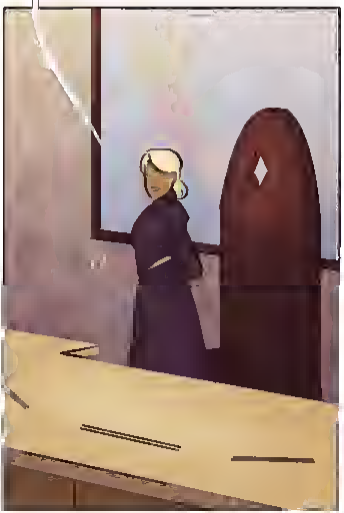
OF COURSE THEY CAN'T BE SEPARATED THEY HAVE A PURPOSE TO FULFIL AS WIELDERS, AND IT'S HERE IN BASILEIA THAT THE FIRST RITUAL TOOK PLACE

I SHALL HAVE TO BREAK THE NEWS TO THE OTHER LEADERS...THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS, ARGUS

I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT I'M DEEPLY SORRY I'VE HANDLED THE SITUATION POORLY AND IF YOU PREFER MY RESIGNATION--

IMPOSSIBLE. I WILL NOT ACCEPT YOUR RESIGNATION OR APOLOGY. YOU WORK YOURSELF TO THE BONE FOR THESE CHILDREN AND NOW YOU ARE THEIR SOLE CONTACT. YOU ARE NEEDED

IF ANYONE IS TO BLAME, IT'S ME

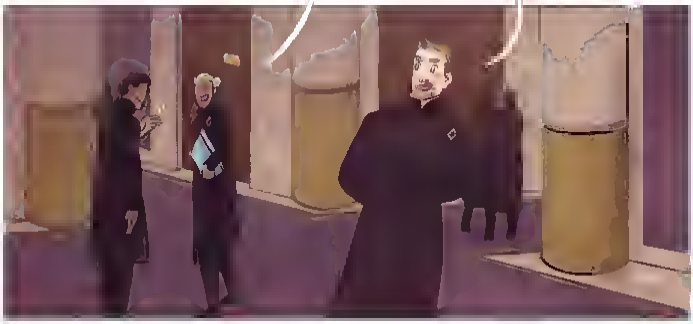


I WILL BE SENDING INTERNS TO RELIEVE SOME OF YOUR DUTIES IN THE ARCHIVES. DELEGATE AS YOU SEE FIT.

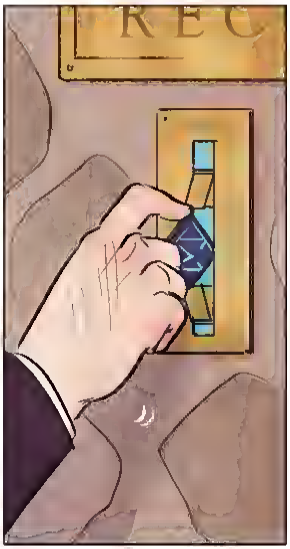
THANK YOU, COUNCILWOMAN.

ARGUS! OFF TO THE ARCHIVES AGAIN? YOUR SECOND HOME?

WELL, SOME OF US HAVE TO WORK AROUND HERE!



RECORDS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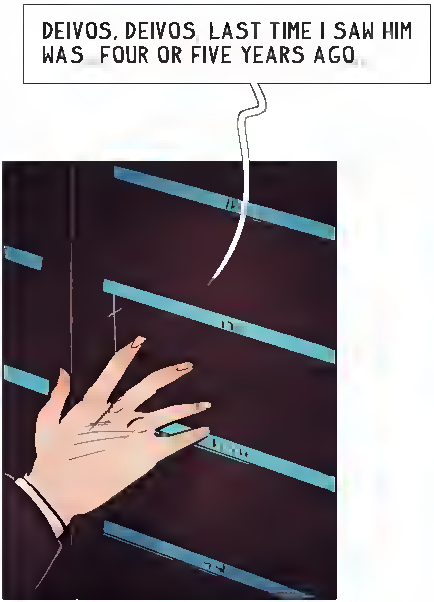
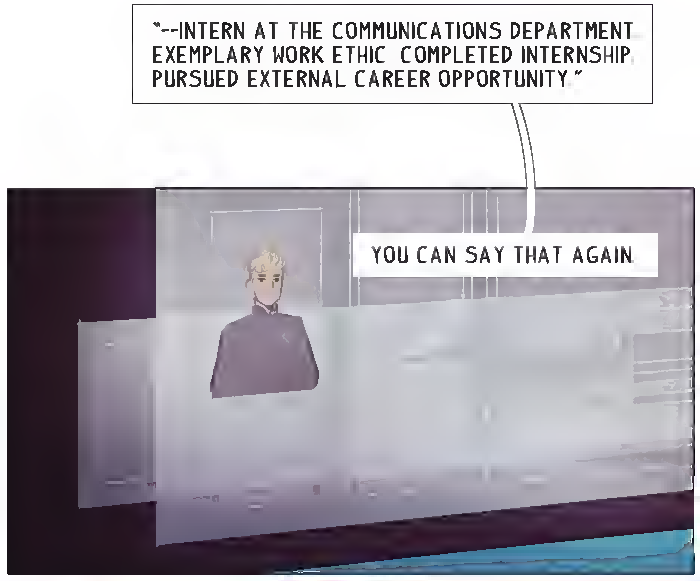

DEIVOS, DEIVOS. LAST TIME I SAW HIM WAS... FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO...

AHA!


"--INTERN AT THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
EXEMPLARY WORK ETHIC COMPLETED INTERNSHIP
PURSUED EXTERNAL CAREER OPPORTUNITY."
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN

NOTHING ELSE. ANOTHER DEAD END

WHO WERE YOU WORKING FOR, DEIVOS?